

# Portland Police Shoot, Arrest I-84 Gunman

## Family says man struggled with mental health

(AP) -- A Portland police officer shot a man who was pointing a gun at passing cars on an Interstate 84 off-ramp, and the ensuing standoff with the wounded suspect led to a long Labor Day closure of the freeway.

The suspect, identified late Monday as Denorris Laron McClendon, 27, was treated at a Portland hospital, then taken to the Multnomah

County Jail, where he was booked on a dozen counts of menacing, two counts of reckless endangerment and two counts of second-degree disorderly conduct.

Portland police spokesman Sgt. Pete Simpson said McClendon ran from the freeway after he was struck by a bullet, and he collapsed on a nearby street.

"Officers began talking with the man, who refused to comply with commands and indicated he wanted officers to shoot him," Simpson said.

Police negotiators got McClendon to surrender. Relatives of the wounded man told reporters

during the standoff that he has struggled with mental health issues.

The incident began shortly before 10 a.m., when North Precinct officers responded to the 122nd Avenue off-ramp from I-84 eastbound on the report of a man walking along the ramp, armed with a handgun, pointing at passing cars. Other callers said it appeared the man was trying to carjack drivers on the ramp, police said.

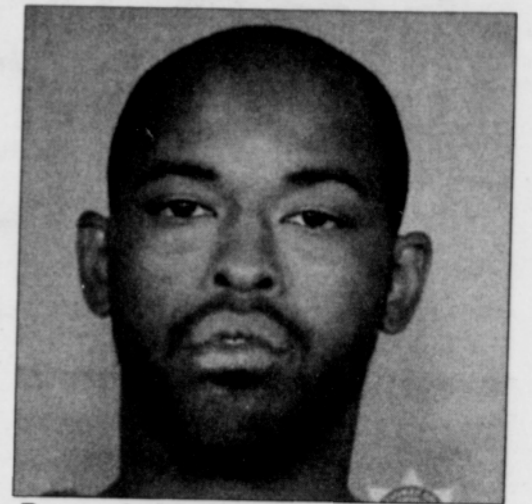
An officer arrived in the area and the suspect pointed the gun at the officer, then ran through traffic on the freeway. Numerous officers arrived in the area and all freeway

traffic was shut down.

At some point, near the freeway, an officer fired shots and struck McClendon, who ran off the north side of the freeway and collapsed in the 11200 block of Northeast Fremont Street.

Officers began talking with McClendon, who refused to comply with commands and indicated he wanted officers to shoot him.

The Special Emergency Reaction Team (SERT) and Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) responded and SERT was able to safely approach the man, using an armored vehicle, and take him into custody and ren-



Denorris McClendon

der medical aid, officers said.

Detectives would like to hear from anyone who had contact with McClendon Monday on I-84 or elsewhere.

Anyone with information call 503-823-0449.

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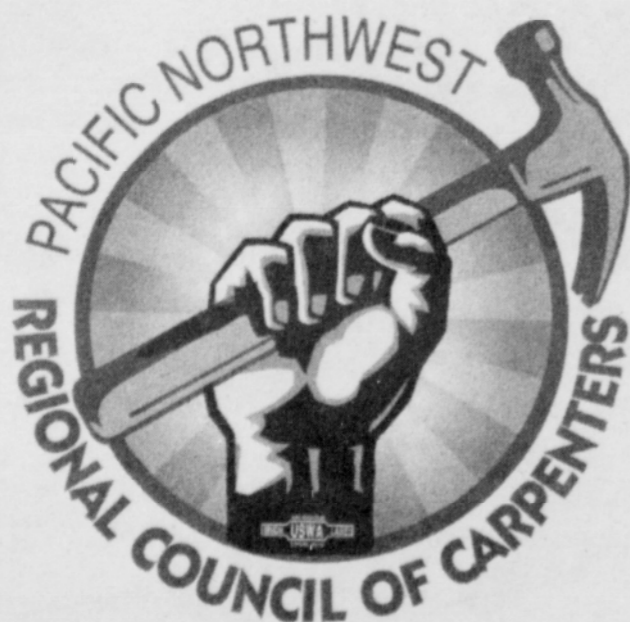
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